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Wildfire Activity

Wildfires are uncontrolled fires which consume wildland vegetations, occurring with a high frequency in hot rural areas covered with vegetation and experiencing long periods of droughts. Their spread is usually facilitated by the presence of strong winds that make them consume vast portions of surface vegetation within a short time. An occurrence may be as a result of human or natural causes with about 90% of these fires resulting due to human reasons. Natural causes include such things as lightning; the most common natural cause, volcanic eruptions which produce hot materials like ash to ignite the fire. Spontaneous heating that occurs when the dry leaves lying on the surface get heated to the point of ignition without any spark. Humans may play a role directly through arson and playing with fire or indirectly through the electricity ignited fires. With all these causes, the determinants of growth of wildfires are predominantly by weather conditions. Conditions of high temperatures, strong winds and low rainfall usually make the leaves to fall off the trees, shrubs or even cause drying of this vegetation which will act as fuel for the fires. Moreover, the topography of the region also influences the spread of fires as this would occur rapidly uphill than downhill.

The consequences of wildfire are a significant threat not only to humans but also to the natural biodiversity in which they spearhead the extinction of several species of living organisms

if not just disrupting their routine existence. The primary effects of fires on humans include loss of lives and the destruction of their possessions and properties. On the other hand, they affect human indirectly by creating homelessness, health issues due to the smoke, soil erosion predispose by loss of vegetation, decreased incomes from agricultural activities. The smoke produced from wildfires play a significant role in the destruction of the ozone covering the atmosphere, and by doing so, they contribute a great length in global warming resulting into climatic changes unfavourable for most living organisms on earth. The result of this is that more wildfires are likely to occur as a result of warm climates and low rainfall, causing the intensification of drought and drying out of the forest.

Precautions must always be taken, especially by people leaving in areas prone to wildfires like Amazon or sites near volcanic eruptions to ensure their safety. One of the precautions is to prevent fire occurrence by eliminating the dead leaves and branches from the surfaces, ensuring controlled burning of the fuels to eradicate them, and educating the people leaving in these areas to deal with human causes. However, in the case have already started, it is advised that residents evacuate the sites as soon as possible. People should consider evacuating to rescue their lives first before the considerations of carrying their belongings along to aid in the faster evacuation that is if the notice is given within a short duration. In scenarios of prior warnings, one can carry light belongings like phones but not heavy bags which are likely to drug them behind if conditions become worse. If possible, the authorities should take charge in guiding the evacuations in an orderly manner. Despite all this, the safety of human life is only assured by avoiding the areas prone to wildfires as this will safe a great deal in case of wildfires occur.

In case of a need to stop wildfires after they start, firefighters can consider spraying the fires with foam and water. Other possible ways could involve the use of planes to chemicals extinguishers as well as water mostly to cover inaccessible areas. Sometimes, spaying ahead of the fire can reduce the chances of it spreading which can also be achieved by back burning techniques involving deliberate burning of areas ahead in a controlled manner, thus eradicating fuel fires. Fire breaks would also serve to stop the spread, and they are created by digging trenches or removing vegetation lines though cutting down the vegetation.

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